



'I have a dream . . .'

In 1963, Martin Luther King said that he had a dream . . .

## Presentation

You use reported speech (or indirect speech) to report someone's words from the past:

*'I have a dream.'* → *In 1963, he said that he had a dream.*

### that

You often use the conjunction *that* after the reporting verb. There is no difference.

*In 1963, he said **that** he had a dream. ✓*

*He thought **that** he could change people. ✓*

*In 1963, he said he had a dream. ✓*

*He thought he could change people. ✓*

### Change in tense

When you report what someone said, you often move the tense 'backwards'.

present simple → past simple (I **have** a dream. → He said he **had** a dream.)

present continuous → past continuous (You'**re meeting** me at six. → You said you **were meeting** me at six.)

present perfect → past perfect (We'**ve finished** the book. → They said they **had finished** the book.)

*will* → *would* (I'**ll call** you back. → Gill said she'**d call** me back.)

*can* → *could* (We **can** help you. → They said they **could** help us.)

past simple → past perfect (We **wanted** more time. → They said they **had wanted** more time.)

### Change in pronoun

Sometimes, you also need to change the pronoun. In this speech *I* becomes *he* because another person is talking about Martin Luther King:

Martin Luther King: *'I have a dream.'*

Other person: *In 1963, he said that **he** had a dream.*

**1 Rewrite these sentences using reported speech.**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 He said, 'I'm happy to help.'                            | Yesterday, he said that he <u>was happy to help</u> . |
| 2 They said, 'We're going out at seven.'                   | They said that they .....                             |
| 3 She said, 'I've done all my homework.'                   | She said that she .....                               |
| 4 He thought, 'They have forgotten my birthday.'           | He thought that they .....                            |
| 5 The politician said, 'I want to improve people's lives.' | The politician said she .....                         |
| 6 The team said, 'We aren't going to win.'                 | The team said they .....                              |
| 7 She said, 'I'm busy so I won't come.'                    | She said that she .....                               |
| 8 He said, 'I don't know if I can come.'                   | He said that he .....                                 |

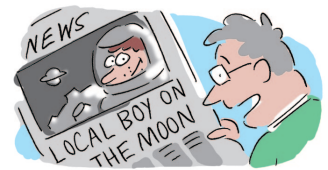
**2 Complete the conversation. Use the words in bold and reported speech. Then listen and check.**

- A: **Are we going out** with Peter and Nigella tonight?
- B: No, they said that they <sup>1</sup> were going out somewhere else tonight, so they **can't meet**.
- A: Why didn't they tell us last week that they <sup>2</sup> .....
- B: I don't know. Anyway, we're **having** dinner together next Friday instead.
- A: But you said that we <sup>3</sup> ..... dinner with your parents next Friday.
- B: Yes, but they **'ll be** on holiday.
- A: Really? You didn't tell me they <sup>4</sup> ..... on holiday.
- B: Yes, I did. They **'ve booked** a holiday in France.
- A: I thought they said they <sup>5</sup> ..... their holiday in Italy.
- B: No, they said France.
- A: So they **aren't going to** visit us before they go.
- B: No. They said they <sup>6</sup> ..... have time to visit us.

**3 Look at the before and after pictures. Then write sentences using direct speech.**



- 1 You said that you knew how to drive it!  
'I know how to drive it'.



- 2 He always said he was going to be an astronaut when he grew up.



- 3 You said you'd be home early.



- 4 I thought he said he could play the guitar.